

Coretta Scott King

First Lady Of The Civil Rights Movement
1927-2006

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The JET Spot

◀ Makes You Want To Holler!

Thrilled cheerleader, Torye Hurt, 8 (c), jumps for joy as her teammates from Trinity All Stars share in the excitement at the World Spirit Federation National Championships in Greensboro, NC. The Upper Marlboro, MD, cheerleaders participated in the "Youth 4" division, for children 11 and younger, and were awarded a National Championship trophy for their participation.

Celebrity BIRTHDAYS



Feb. 16
Ice-T



Feb. 18
Toni Morrison



Feb. 19
Seal

THIS WEEK IS: National Child Passenger Safety Week,

according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and www.boosterseat.gov. Did you know motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of children ages 2 to 14 in the United States? But children ages 4 to 8 who use booster seats and safety belts are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a car crash than children who are restrained only by a safety belt. And it's always safest when children under the age of 13 ride in the back seat.

The world champion Pittsburgh Steelers' running back **Jerome Bettis** (r) and wide receiver **Hines Ward**, the game's Most Valuable Player, celebrate the team's victory over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL at Detroit **ON PAGE 60**.



AP

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Cover photo by Sara De Boer/Retna

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Coretta Scott King

First Lady Of
The Civil Rights Movement
1927-2006



◀ The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is welcomed with a kiss by his wife Coretta after he left court in Montgomery, AL, in 1956.

No one could have imagined the calm, stamina and iron will that Coretta Scott King would demonstrate when her husband of 15 years, civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968.

The widowed mother of four young children stood firm and vowed that her husband's spirit and dream of racial peace and nonviolent social change would never die.

She moved from bereavement to the battlefield, holding back tears in public for six days. Before her husband was even buried, she courageously went to Memphis

CORETTA SCOTT KING
1927-2006



▲ Dr. King's family walks in his funeral procession in Atlanta after he was assassinated in 1968. The photo shows (l-r) daughter, Yolanda, 12; Dr. King's brother, A.D. King; daughter, Bernice, 5; Rev. Ralph Abernathy; and sons, Dexter, 7, and Martin Luther King III, 10.

to lead a memorial march in support of striking garbage men he championed.

The world witnessed the strength of a poised and graceful Black woman as she

emerged to carry the mantle in her husband's absence, establishing herself as a leader in her own right.

Nearly four decades after



◀ Mrs. King made her first public appearance since suffering a heart attack and stroke during the Salute to Greatness Dinner in Atlanta last month. Daughters (l-r) Yolanda and Bernice King, sister-in-law Christine Farris, and son Dexter King attended the event. It was her last public appearance, just three weeks before her death.

CORETTA SCOTT KING

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The King children (l-r) Martin III, Bernice, Yolanda and Dexter, shown in 1989, spend a moment with their mother at the King Center in Atlanta.



Moneta Sleat Jr.

she dedicated her life toward the work that her husband started, the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement finished the course.

Mrs. King, 78, died in her sleep of respiratory failure at Hospital Santa Monica in

▼ For more than a decade Mrs. King worked to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday. In November 1983 she proudly observed President Ronald Reagan sign the historic bill in the Rose Garden. The Kings' four children and Dr. King's sister, Christine King Farris, were among those on hand at the event.



Maurice Sorrell



Harriet Perry

▲ A young Coretta Scott graduated as valedictorian of Lincoln High School in Marion, AL. She was a choir director and pianist at her church by age 15.

▲ Mrs. King is shown with her mother, Mrs. Bernice Scott, during a memorial at Brown Chapel AME Church in Alabama to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in 1965. Dr. King was the leader of the voter registration movement that triggered the day that was. ► A stunning beauty, Mrs. King gave up a successful music career as a concert singer to have a family.

Dorinda Reed Jr.



Coretta was one of the few Blacks to attend Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, during the '40s. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in music and education in 1951.

CORETTA SCOTT KING

1927-2006

Mrs. King gives a concert during the '60s as concert pianist Jonathan Brice joins her at a luncheon of the National Council of Churches in New York City.



Ebony Files

Baja California, Mexico. She made her transition on the 45th birthday of Dexter, their younger son.

The causes of death, according to the death certificate, were cerebral vascular disease and ovarian cancer.

In August Mrs. King suffered a heart attack and stroke, which left her partially paralyzed on her right side and impaired her ability to speak (JET, Sept. 5, 2005).

Three weeks before her

◀ Martin Luther King, Jr. married Coretta Scott in 1953. "The four things that I look for in a wife are character, intelligence, personality and beauty. And you have them all," she recalled that he told her on their first date at a Boston cafeteria.



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▲ Proud parents Dr. King and Coretta are shown with their new baby, Martin Luther King III, by Sister Alexander at St. Jude's Hospital in Montgomery. Born on Oct. 23, 1957, he was their first son and second child.

► The King children (l-r), Dexter, Martin III, Yolanda and baby Bernice, are shown in this 1964 photo with their mother. Bernice is the only King child to follow in their father's footsteps to become a minister.



Ebony Files

death, she made her first public appearance since her illness during the Salute to Greatness Dinner in Atlanta.

Sitting in a wheelchair, she did not speak, but smiled as she received roaring applause and a standing ovation at the King Center's annual event, which celebrates her husband's birthday. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the federal holiday that recognizes that day.

One day after Mrs. King's transition, President Bush began his



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sination in 1968, she immediately picked up the weight and devoted her life to continuing his work.

The same year that a sniper's bullet killed her husband, she started the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which began as a memorial in her basement.

By 1981, after she led

◀ Mrs. King plays the piano as Yolanda plays the clarinet.

State of the Union speech by paying homage to her.

"Today our nation lost a beloved, graceful, courageous woman who called America to its founding ideals and carried on a noble dream," said Bush. "Tonight we are comforted by the hope of a glad reunion with the husband who was taken so long ago, and we are grateful for the good life of Coretta Scott King."

A standing ovation was given by members of Congress following the tribute.

Mrs. King proved that behind every great man there is a great woman. After her husband's assass-



Dr. King kisses his wife goodbye as he departs for a trip in 1965. He traveled so frequently that Mrs. King once said she saw her husband for 5 minutes between planes at Atlanta's airport.

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Mrs. King accompanied her husband on many occasions, including this march from Selma to Montgomery in December 1955.

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campaigns to raise government and private funds, Mrs. King saw the completion of the complex in Atlanta. Later that year the \$8.5 million Freedom Hall, adjacent

▼ Two years before Dr. King was assassinated, his wife marched with him as he led the Meredith March (March Against Fear) in Jackson, MS, in 1966. Others marching with them included (l-r) the Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Abernathy (SCLC president), attorney Floyd McKissick (director of National CORE) and Stokely Carmichael (Chairman of SNCC).



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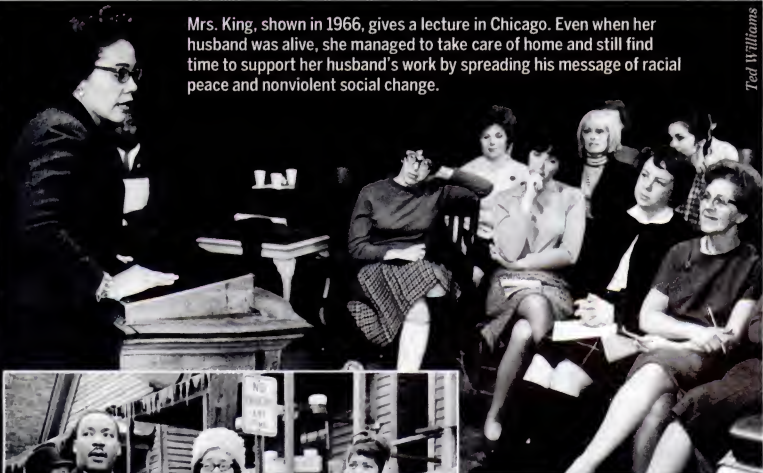


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LIONSGATE

Mrs. King, shown in 1966, gives a lecture in Chicago. Even when her husband was alive, she managed to take care of home and still find time to support her husband's work by spreading his message of racial peace and nonviolent social change.

Ted Williams



AP

▲ Mrs. King joins her husband as they picket during a tour of an Atlanta slum area in 1966. She was on the battlefield with him until the end.

▼ King is embraced by his wife as his mother, Alberta Williams King, looks on during a news conference in 1958 at New York's Harlem Hospital where King was recovering from a stab wound with a Japanese letter opener following an attack by a woman.



Ebony Photos

to the center, was dedicated. A centerpiece of the campus is Dr. King's tomb surrounded by a reflecting pool.

She worked for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law. Three years later the first federal holiday was celebrated.

Born on April 27, 1927, in Heiberger, near Marion, AL, Mrs. King was the youngest daughter of Obadiah and Bernice McMurry Scott.

As the middle child with an older sister and younger brother, Mrs. King helped the family earn money by picking cotton. Her father, who drove a taxi, later supported the family by opening a country store.

An appreciation for music was passed on from their mother, as was an insistence on going to college.

When she attended Lincoln High School, a "semi-private" Black school



▲ This Pulitzer Prize-winning photo by EBONY photographer Moneta Sleet Jr. shows Mrs. King comforting daughter, Bernice, 5, at the funeral services for her husband at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

► Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of President John F. Kennedy, greets Mrs. King at her home before Dr. King's funeral. She extended a personal invitation to Mrs. Kennedy, whose assassinated husband had been held in high esteem by Dr. King.





Maurice Sorrell

▲ Mrs. King shared a special bond with Dr. Betty Shabazz (c), widow of Malcolm X, and Myrlie Evers, widow of Medgar Evers. Their husbands were each civil rights leaders who were assassinated: Evers in 1963, Malcolm in 1965 and Dr. King in 1968. Shabazz died in a fire in 1997.

in Marion with an integrated teaching staff, Mrs. King was introduced to the world of music.

There she sang in the chorus and learned to play the piano and trumpet. By the age of 15, Mrs. King was serving as choir director and pianist at her church. Later she also learned to play the violin, with which she would earn a graduate degree.

After she graduated valedictorian of her class, Mrs. King attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH.

As the first Black to major in elementary education, King was required to

teach a year at a private elementary school and a year in the public schools.

It was when she attempted to take a student teaching job that she encountered institutionalized racism. She was asked to travel 9 miles away to work in an all-Black school, though most students were placed in local public schools.

That incident motivated her to work for equality not only for herself, but for all people. She became active with an Antioch chapter of the NAACP and a Race Relations Committee and a Civil Liberties Committee.

During this time, Mrs. King's love for music continued to grow. She began to perform concerts and even appeared on a program with legendary bass singer Paul

Robeson, who commended her voice and encouraged her to continue her voice studies.

Mrs. King earned a bachelor's degree, majoring in music and education at Antioch in 1951.

She contemplated attending Juilliard in New York or the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. A short while later she was accepted into the New England Conservatory where she studied musical education with a voice major. In 1954, she graduated with a degree in voice and violin.

Mrs. King's life changed forever when



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▲ Mrs. King kept marching after her husband's death. On the 35th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, in March 2000, former President Bill Clinton joined her, along with (l-r) the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rep. John Lewis, a former King lieutenant, as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, in tribute to the civil rights protesters who marched in 1965. Mrs. King's husband led hundreds of people on the long walk during that first march.

in 1952 a mutual friend introduced her to Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister from Atlanta who was working toward a doctorate at Boston University.

In her 1969 autobiography, *My Life With Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Mrs. King wrote that she believed she was sent to Boston for a special reason.

"Neither Martin nor I believed in destiny, in the sense of predestination that one cannot change," she said. "But we both felt that God guided our lives in the way that He wanted us to serve, so that we might be the instruments of His creative will."

She told JET during a 1965 interview that she had to pray before she accepted King's marriage proposal. "I wasn't sure

that I could break into my career, change my faith and stand up under the discipline that is required of a minister's wife."

After six months of waiting for an answer, he made her his wife on June 18, 1953. King's father, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., who pastored Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, married them during a garden ceremony on the lawn of her parents' house in Marion. He also agreed to the strong-minded Coretta's request to omit the bride's part of the vows to obey her husband.

The following year the couple moved to Montgomery, AL, where King was pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

She stood by his side, assuming the many functions of pastor's wife. That

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CORETTA SCOTT KING

1927-2006



▲ Mrs. King was among five Americans honored in 1983 with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom Medals in commemoration of FDR's 50th anniversary inaugural. Other honorees included (l-r) Joseph Rauh Jr., civil rights authority; ex-U.S. Secretary of State W. Averell Harriman; ex-Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara; and former U.S. Senator Jacob Javitz (not shown).

same year in November they became parents with the birth of daughter Yolanda Denise.

During this time the 26-year-old minister quickly became a leading civil rights figure when he orchestrated the Montgomery bus boycott after a seamstress



▲ Among her honorary doctorates was one awarded in 1984 by Spelman College in Atlanta. Mrs. King, Cicely Tyson (l) and Clara S. Jones of Detroit were honored by former Spelman College President Dr. Donald Stewart.

named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a White passenger.

For the most part she remained in the background, raising their four

◀ During a 1993 tribute to Mrs. King in Atlanta, she poses with her paternal family (l-r, standing) Dr. Arthur Bagley, brother-in-law; Edith Scott Bagley, sister; Atty. Arturo Bagley, nephew; (l-r, seated) Alberta Scott, sister-in-law; Obadiah Scott Sr., father, and Rev. Obadiah Scott, Jr., brother.

[Continued on page 51](#)





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In Tribute To The First Lady Of Civil Rights: Coretta Scott King

Many activists, public figures and community leaders share their heart-warming memories of civil rights trailblazer Coretta Scott King.



◀ **Rev. Jesse Jackson, civil rights leader:** *"To observe her handle the highs and lows of life with dignity was a lesson in watching someone master fate with faith. She endured that pain with unusual strength and character. She helped to carry the baton of that struggle for the rest of her life. She singlehandedly built the King Center. More than that, her voice for justice at home and peace in the world remained constant... Hers was a voice that will now reverberate throughout the ages."*



◀ **Rev. Al Sharpton, civil rights leader:** *"The loss of Coretta Scott King is a monumental loss to the nation and the world at large. She was truly the first lady of the human rights movement."*



▶ **Marc H. Morial, president, National Urban League:** *"She carried the mantle of civil rights and opportunity for all and was a pillar of strength and support for Dr. King at home and on the civil rights trails."*



◀ **U.S. Rep. John Lewis, civil rights activist:** *"Coretta Scott King was a beautiful person. She was smart, determined, and she acted with poise, grace and dignity."*

was such an integral part of and that African-Americans face daily for equity and parity..."

▶ **U.S. Rep. Melvin L. Watt, chairman, Congressional Black Caucus:** *"Mrs. King's death marks the end of an era, but certainly not the end of the continued struggle that she*





◀ **Maya Angelou, acclaimed poet, told "Good Morning America":** *"It's a bleak morning for me and for many people, and yet it's a great morning, because we have a chance to look at her and see what she did and who she was. She was a sister friend to me. We called each other children sisters. And she was a great wife obviously, and a wonderful mother, and a great woman, a great American... When I think of great Americans, she's one of the people I think of... She belonged to us. That's a great thing."*

▶ **Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor emeritus, EBONY Magazine:** *"Coretta Scott King was one of those great Black women, the Truths, the Tubmans, the Parkses, who visit us from time to time and leave us stronger, cleaner and wiser. I remember interviewing her in Montgomery shortly after she and her 9-week-old baby, Yolanda King, survived a terrorist bombing of their Montgomery home, and I was impressed then, and I was impressed repeatedly over the years, by her toughness and buoyancy of spirit. I remember the terrible time after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and the night before the funeral when she decided that there would be no photographers at the funeral at all if big news media succeeded in excluding EBONY/JET photographer Moneta Sleet Jr., who won a Pulitzer Prize and became the first Black male and the first Black photographer so honored for the unforgettable funeral photograph he made of a great wife and a great mother and a great leader comforting her youngest child, Bernice King, and showing the world how to overcome."*



◀ **Walter E. Massey, president of Morehouse College:** *"The Morehouse community is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the first lady of the Civil Rights Movement. More than any single individual, Mrs. King kept the legacy of her husband, Morehouse alumnus Martin Luther King Jr. (Class of 1948), alive through her commitment to the ideals of nonviolence, peace and social justice."*

▶ **Tavis Smiley, TV and radio personality:** *"Mrs. King was a long-distance runner. Anyone can sprint a few feet, but she stayed the course. The essence of her life was commitment. The successes and the failures in her life were mere byproducts. She stayed committed."*





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◀ **Dorothy Height, social activist:** *"Mrs. King had an appreciation for the contributions of all people, and she was always working to create the 'beloved community' that we might become."*

▶ **Julian Bond, chairman, NAACP Board of Directors:**

"Coretta Scott King was her husband's partner in life; after his death, she was a fierce protector of his legacy and a promoter of non-violence. She was my neighbor and friend, and will be much missed."



◀ **Bruce Gordon, president and CEO, NAACP:**

"Coretta Scott King was the glue that held the King family together and an activist leader in her own right. While the entire NAACP community is saddened by her death, we must celebrate her life."

▶ **Charles Steele Jr., president and CEO, SCLC:**

"Mrs. Coretta Scott King is an icon in her own right. She set the example for the whole world in terms of fulfilling the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."



◀ **Andrew Young, former United Nations Ambassador:**

"She lived a graceful and beautiful life in spite of all the difficulties...Her husband always talked about death...as imminent, as being possible any day and admonishing everyone to live as though each day was the last. In many respects, Coretta King did that."

▶ **Juanita Abernathy, widow of Ralph Abernathy:**

"My fondest memories of Coretta are our early travels together with Martin and my late husband, Ralph. She had a tremendous sense of humor and could be very funny despite the challenges we faced throughout the Movement. I will remember Coretta as a determined and committed woman, an independent thinker, and a diligent fighter for freedom."



She kept the dream alive.

Coretta Scott King
1927-2006



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. He believed that all men were created equal. Four days after his death, Coretta Scott King took his place at the front of the civil rights movement. For nearly four decades, she spent her life working to make his dream a reality. From the basement of her home in Atlanta, she started the King Center and led a 15-year battle to make her husband's birthday a national holiday.

We honor and remember Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to make this world a better place for generations to come.

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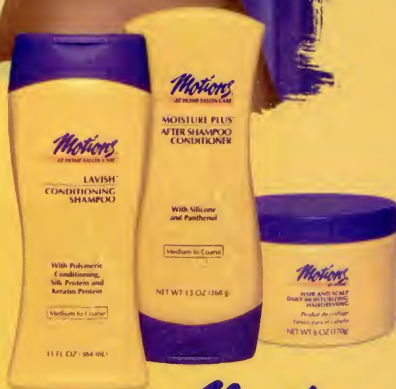
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► **Barack Obama, U.S. Senator (D-IL):** *"Coretta Scott King died in her sleep, but she was certainly not alone. She was joined by the companionship and support of a loving family and a grateful nation – inspired by her cause, dedicated to her work, and mourning of her passing. My thoughts and condolences today are with her children, and may she and her husband now rest in eternal peace."*



◀ **Myrlie Evers-Williams, chair emeritus, NAACP Board of Directors:** *"I was saddened to learn about the passing of my personal, very special friend, Coretta Scott King. She and I, along with Betty Shabazz, were members of a club that no one wants to join – the "widow of." We shared the challenges of raising our children without their fathers; we shared the challenges of bearing our husbands' legacies and dignity; we shared the challenges of the ever-shifting Civil Rights Movement. And, through it all, she maintained her graciousness..."*

► **Rev. Joseph Lowery, former president, SCLC:** *"She became both Martin's widow and through the establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, a sort of sentimental symbol of the Movement. People will remember her as the first lady of the Movement."*



◀ **Tom Joyner, radio personality:** *"Mrs. King was more than Dr. King's widow. She was a living symbol of what he fought and died for...Mrs. King was the last real icon of the Civil Rights Movement. The best way for all of us to honor her memory is to remember what she worked so hard to achieve and to exercise our political power the way we know she'd want us to. We can only do that if we are informed, empowered and registered to vote."*



► **Xernona Clayton, creator, Trumpet Awards and civil rights activist:** *"Coretta's life had a profound impact on the world. Her dignity, her compassion and her composure under pressure will be in our memory forever. She was my dearest and closest friend, and I will miss her deeply."*



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Keeping The Dream Alive

Few children have had a more public life than those of the late civil rights icons Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. Yet, Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter and Bernice King, all single, have managed to distinguish themselves as individuals and living legacies and stewards of The Dream.



Yolanda, born on November 17, 1955, in Montgomery, AL, is 50. Yolanda earned her bachelor's degree from Smith College in Northampton, MA. She went on to earn a

master's degree in theatre at New York University. A seasoned actor, her roles reflect a commitment to social change and include portrayals of Rosa Parks in the NBC-TV movie *King*, and Medgar Evers's daughter, Reena, in *Ghosts of Mississippi*. An international motivational speaker, she is the founder & CEO of Higher Ground Productions, a California-based corporation for positive social change and world peace.



Dexter, born on Jan. 30, 1961, in Atlanta, is 45. Dexter attended Morehouse College. He currently serves as chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonvi-

olent Social Change, where he once worked as the entertainment coordinator for the center. In 1985, Dexter produced a music video in celebration of the first nationally recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Pursuing a career in entertainment, he portrayed his father in the TV movie, *The Rosa Parks Story*. His 2003 book, *Growing Up King: An Intimate Memoir*, chronicled his life as a child growing up with his father.



Martin III, born on October 23, 1957, in Montgomery, AL, is 48. Martin III earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Morehouse. He is a former commis-

sioner of Fulton County Georgia, once leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and until recently president and CEO of the King Center in Atlanta.



Bernice, born on March 28, 1963, in Atlanta, is 42. Bernice earned a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a master's of divinity and a law degree from Em-

ory University. A lawyer who is also minister of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, GA, she is the author of *Hard Questions, Heart Answers*, a collection of sermons, speeches and essays.

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A photograph of actor Samuel L. Jackson leaning forward, smiling, and placing his hands on a dark surface, likely a plaque or a piece of cement, during a ceremony. He is wearing a white beret, dark sunglasses, a white t-shirt, and a black leather jacket. He has a watch on his left wrist. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a red carpet event.

the week's best photo

■ Hollywood Fame:

Star actor Samuel L. Jackson leaves his mark on Hollywood Boulevard as he imprints his hands and feet in cement during a ceremony at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. Since his famed film career began in 1972, Jackson has had more than 100 movie and TV appearances, with his newest film *Freedomland* opening Feb. 17.



In Memory of

Coretta Scott King

1927 - 2006

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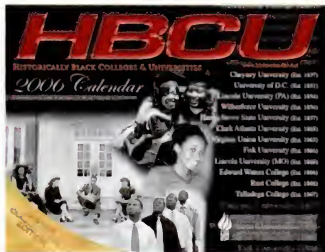
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beauty of the week

CECILY HOLLAND

is a journalist from Scott, LA. In addition to modeling she enjoys spending time with family and surfing the Internet.

Photo by
Terald Flagg

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Spring '06 Itinerary (partial listing)

SHOW LOCATION	DATE & TIME
Macon, GA Macon City Auditorium	Mon., 2/13 8:00 pm
Athens, GA Morton Theatre	Tue., 2/14 7:00 pm
Chattanooga, TN The Memorial Auditorium	Wed., 2/15 8:00 pm
Columbus, GA The Bradley Theatre	Thu., 2/16 8:00 pm
Jackson, MS Regency Hotel and Conference Center	Fri., 2/17 8:00 pm
Memphis, TN Grand Casino Event Center	Sat., 2/18 8:00 pm
Tupelo, MS Bancorp South Center	Sun., 2/19 5:00 pm
Fayetteville, AR Embassy Suites Hotel	Tue., 2/21 7:30 pm
Pine Bluff, AR Pine Bluff Convention Center	Wed., 2/22 7:30 pm
Little Rock, AR Robinson Exhibition Hall	Thu., 2/23 7:00 pm
Hattiesburg, MS Hattiesburg High School Auditorium	Fri., 2/24 8:00 pm
Greenwood, MS Leflore County Civic Center	Wed., 3/1 8:00 pm
Mobile, AL Saenger Theater Center for the Living Arts	Fri., 3/3 8:00 pm
Lafayette, LA Cajundome	Sat., 3/4 8:00 pm
Baton Rouge, LA Felton G. Clark Activity Center	Sun., 3/5 3:00 pm
Monroe, LA Monroe Civic Center Theater	Thu., 3/9 8:00 pm
Shreveport, LA The Municipal Auditorium	Fri., 3/10 8:00 pm

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Hollywood Couple Samuel L. Jackson & LaTanya Richardson Discuss Fame & Marriage In March EBONY

In any relationship where there's love, there's also sacrifice. As husband and wife and professional actors, Samuel L. Jackson and LaTanya Richardson know this fact to be very true. In the March EBONY the Hollywood couple gets candid in a rare interview about their relationship, family, careers and how they've managed to make it all work.

After 25 years of marriage and having worked in the same profession even longer, Jackson and Richardson have

CELEBRITIES

◀ Actors Samuel L. Jackson and LaTanya Richardson speak candidly about their relationship and careers in the March EBONY.

surprisingly only collaborated on two films together, 1995's *Losing Isaiah* and the soon-to-be-released racial drama *Freedomland*.

Since 1995 times have definitely changed for the two thespians. Jackson's 80-plus films have not only made him a superstar, but they've also earned him the title of the "6 Billion Dollar Man."

After having worked in film and TV Richardson, who has received stellar reviews for her stage performances, plans to return to her first love—theater. She says that returning to the stage "allows me to work on my own terms, and I'm definitely an 'on my own terms' type of person."

Learn more about the dynamic duo in "Stone Love! Samuel L. Jackson & LaTanya Richardson Speak Out on Fame, Marriage & Why It's Her Turn Now."

In this annual women's issue EBONY celebrates Black women in today's workplace with profiles of the country's top executives. And for the Sister with questions about the do's and don'ts in the bedroom, read "Ask Dr. Ashby: It's All About Sex!"

Also featured in the March EBONY is "Love Stories That Survived the Storms," a touching tale of love about three Southern couples determined to wed despite the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. □

Actors Angela Bassett And Courtney B. Vance Welcome Home Twins

It's a boy and a girl for husband and wife actors Courtney B. Vance and Angela Bassett. The couple, married eight years, are the new parents of twins, a publicist for the pair recently announced.

The babies were born on Jan. 27 to a surrogate mother, Alex Dubee said. At JET press time Bassett and Vance, who met as each studied acting at the Yale School of Drama, did not disclose the infants' names.

Bassett, 47 won a Golden Globe and was nominated for an Oscar for her portrayal of famed singer Tina Turner in the 1993 biopic *What's Love Got To Do With It?* The New York native was also featured in the 2005 hit *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* and will appear in *Akeelah and the Bee* later this spring.



Angela Bassett & Courtney B. Vance

Vance, 45, has been nominated twice for Broadway's Tony Award: once in 1987 as Best Actor (Featured Role-Play) for August Wilson's *Fences* and in 1991 as Best Actor (Play) for John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*. The Detroit-born actor's current character is district attorney Ron Carver on NBC's legal drama "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." □

Singer Angela Bofill Suffers Stroke; Benefit Concert Planned In New Jersey

Singer Angela Bofill is recovering from a stroke that has left her paralyzed on her left side, according to her agent.

Rich Engel told JET: "I spoke to Angie yesterday. It's apparent she will need speech therapy. But her speech is definitely improving. She can write notes with her right hand. She



Angela Bofill

can't walk, and although she can't move it, she has gotten some feeling in her left leg, which is a positive improvement."

Bofill, 51, was released from the intensive care unit but remains in a hospital near Oakland, CA. She has no health insurance, Engel said.

An all-star benefit concert to help



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with her medical expenses is scheduled for March 11 at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, NJ, with Najee, Phil Perry, Pieces of A Dream, Marion Meadows, Dave Valentin and others performing. Fans should visit Bofill's Web site www.liveatnight.com for ticket information.

Her spirits have been lifted by the outpouring of support from her fans and

celebrity friends, Engel said.

"She was excited to hear of the benefit and was especially pleased when I played her an answering machine message from Dionne Warwick."

Bofill won fame in the late '70s and early '80s with such hits as *I Try*, *This Time I'll Be Sweeter*, *I'm On Your Side* and *Tonight I Give In*. □

Merkerson Wins Screen Actors Guild Award

Actress S. Epatha Merkerson's role in *Lackawanna Blues* as Rachel "Nanny" Crosby, a nurturing woman who runs a boarding house for the down-and-out, landed her an award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a television movie or miniseries at the 12th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Merkerson was the only Black woman nominated in this category and beat out four other nominees. When she received her award, Merkerson cracked a few jokes and expressed gratitude to others, including her manager and the people who made it happen.

"Mostly I want to thank the Screen Actors Guild for making me a part of this community," she said.

Black actors Terrence Howard, Don Cheadle, Thandie Newton, Larenz Tate, Loretta Devine, Beverly Todd and rapper Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, were among the cast of *Crash*, which won for



▲ S. Epatha Merkerson shows off her Screen Actors Guild Award for outstanding performance by a female actor.

outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture.

In prime-time television, the cast of "Lost" won for outstanding performance by an ensemble in a drama series. Black actors on that cast are Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Malcolm David and



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▲ *Crash* cast members (l-r) Ludacris, Matt Dillon, Don Cheadle, Terrence Howard and Larenz Tate celebrate their winning the Screen Actors Guild Award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture.

Harold Perrineau.

The popular “*Desperate Housewives*,” featuring Black cast members Alfre Woodard, Mehead Brooks and Nashawn Kears, took home the award for outstanding performance by an ensemble in

a comedy series.

The SAG Awards recognizes actors and actresses in individual and ensemble casts for 13 different categories. It also presents a Lifetime Achievement Award to an established performer. □

Terrence Howard Gets Oscar Nomination

Terrence Howard has been nominated for an Academy Award for his unforgettable leading role as DJay, a small-time Memphis pimp struggling to be discovered as a rap artist in *Hustle & Flow*.

Howard, who has a long career in big screen and television roles, has had a phenomenal year. He’s acted in *Get Rich or Die Tryin’*, *Four Brothers*, *Lackawanna Blues* and *Crash*, a movie about racism and stereotypes, which has been nominated for best picture.

His upcoming projects include *The Crusaders*, *Awake* and *Idlewild*. Howard is the only Black actor to vie for the prestigious Oscar award for leading actor. If he wins, he will join Sidney Poitier, Halle Berry, Denzel Washington and Jamie Foxx, who have all won Academy Awards in the best leading actor category. The 78th annual Academy Awards will be presented March 5 on ABC. □



Terrence Howard

Continued from page 24



◀ The winning design for the Martin Luther King Memorial in D.C. was unveiled in 2000. Mrs. King discusses it as daughter Bernice sits in the background. An eloquent speaker, she had been delivering speeches and carrying on her husband's work since his death.

children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott and Bernice Albertine.

However, Mrs. King was able to balance attending marches with her husband, giving speeches and even performing.

Her Freedom Concerts combined prose and poetry narration with music and served as fund-raisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which her husband was the first president.

She was a voice instructor at Atlanta's Morris Brown College in 1962. And that same year she served as a delegate for the Women's Strike for Peace at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Over the years, Mrs. King was with

▼ Mrs. King, whose hair and makeup were always picture-perfect and nearly the same for four decades, received a refreshing new look on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 2003.

▼ Johnson Publishing Company founder John H. Johnson is congratulated by Mrs. King at the Salute to Greatness gala in 1988 in Atlanta where he was honored. King once recalled that she taught Yolanda, then 7, that "Black is beautiful" by showing her the beautiful Black faces in *EBONY*, one of the magazines Johnson founded.



her husband in his finest hours and during the most tumultuous days of the Movement.

"For a Movement like this to work," she told *EBONY* in 1959, "the wife must be as dedicated as her husband."

The couple's home was bombed when Mrs. King was in the house with newborn baby Yolanda in the bassinet. Standing by her man through thick and thin, she refused to leave the home, saying, "I'd be worried if I weren't in contact with Martin."

The Kings often received threatening phone calls. She was threatened and



▲ In May 2004, Mrs. King addressed the graduates at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She earned a degree from there in 1954 in voice and violin.



cursed, while her husband was arrested, manhandled, berated and even once stabbed.

Dr. King often admitted that he drew his strength from Coretta. He told *EBONY* during the same interview, "She has maintained a calmness that has kept me going. She sees the greatness of the Movement and has a unique willingness to sacrifice herself for its continuation."

They often traveled together, once spending a month in India to study Gandhi's techniques of nonviolence.

Dr. King's life was cut short when the 39-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner was shot and killed on April 4, 1968, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN.

His funeral was five days later at his father's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

◀ Always elegant and regal, Mrs. King attends Oprah's Legends Ball last year with older son, Martin Luther King III.



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CORETTA SCOTT KING

1927-2006

Because of her unbelievably controlled emotion, she was called the Black Madonna of Grief. For six days, she held back tears in public and shielded her children and comforted them.

It was during this service that the late Robert E. Johnson, executive editor of JET and former Morehouse College classmate of Dr. King, summoned longtime EBONY photographer Moneta Sleet Jr. to take a picture of a grieving Coretta as she held her younger daughter Bernice.

A year later Sleet's capture of that emotional moment earned him a Pulitzer Prize in photography, making him the first Black in history to receive the honor.

Before Dr. King was even buried, she went about the business of her husband's work. She held a demonstration and gave an address compiled from his notes. In June she gave a keynote speech at a civil rights gathering known as the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C.

She has carried the message of non-violence from every corner of our nation and globe. Her travels have spanned such places as Africa, Europe, Asia, Switzerland and Latin America.

Mrs. King not only picked up the mantle to fight for civil rights, she also fought for human rights.

In the late '90s she surprised many when she became an outspoken supporter for gay and lesbian rights, acknowledging that all forms of bigotry and discrimination are wrong.

"I still hear people say that I should

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▲ The King children share a moment with their mother in 1989 at the King Center.

not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people, and I should stick to the issue of racial injustice," she said during a 1998 luncheon that celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national gay rights organization. "But I hasten to

remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'"

As recently as two years ago Mrs. King denounced a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage.

CORETTA SCOTT KING

1927-2006

Lauded as one of the most influential women leaders in the world, she had received honorary doctorates from more than 60 colleges and universities, including Morehouse College, Princeton University and Bethune-Cookman College.

Mrs. King even made history as the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and as the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

In 1969, the Coretta Scott King Book Award was established in honor of Mrs. King for her "courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood." The award, designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr.

King, is given to a Black author or a Black illustrator for "outstandingly inspirational and educational contribution."

In addition to writing her autobiography, she also edited a book of Dr. King's writings in 1983.

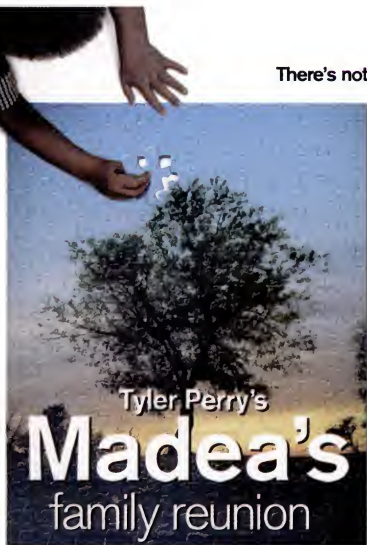
Among the survivors are her four children, a brother and a sister.

Throughout the years, Mrs. King often said that her life was in divine order and that Martin was intended to be a part of it.

"I believe that God meant for us to be together. This is something for which I constantly thank God. It is something I have never regretted."□

—Margena A. Christian

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381 DAYS

The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story



Courtesy AP/Wide World Photos.

Day 1

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AARP presents *381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story*, a traveling 15-city exhibit highlighting the moments that gave birth to the Civil Rights Movement. Created by the Smithsonian Institution, this multifaceted retrospective celebrates the struggle and subsequent successes of those who helped change the country forever.



Photo by Don Cravens | Time Life Pictures/Getty Images.

Day 182

We invite you to leave your mark in history by contributing your story to the "Voices of Civil Rights" project, the largest archive of personal accounts from the Civil Rights era, either by visiting *381 Days* in a city near you or online at www.voicesofcivilrights.org.



Photo by Don Cravens | Time Life Pictures/Getty Images.

Day 381

AARP is proud to present *381 Days* because we believe that knowledge drives change. To learn more about the exhibit and tour schedules, visit www.sites.si.edu.

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Smithsonian

381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Troy University Rosa Parks Library and Museum.



"The Bus" (36) is tripped up after catching a 5-yard pass during the second quarter of the game.



◀ Pittsburgh Steelers' Jerome Bettis hoists the Vince Lombardi Trophy after Pittsburgh's 21-10 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL in his hometown of Detroit.

Jerome Bettis Stops The Bus At Home In Steelers' Super Bowl Victory In Detroit

In a storybook-ending season on the 40th anniversary of the unofficial American holiday known as the Super Bowl, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 at Detroit's Ford Field and clinched a record-tying fifth championship title.

Led by Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward's 5 catches and 123 yards, the game was an emotional farewell to star running back Jerome "The Bus" Bettis.

The Bus' Last Stop

Not many players win a championship in the final game of their career. Perhaps what fans will remember most about Super Bowl XL is that Bettis did what most athletes did not—he walked

away on top.

"I think The Bus' last stop is here in Detroit," the charismatic Bettis told the screaming crowd as he hoisted the championship Vince Lombardi Trophy. "It's been an incredible ride. I decided to come back for a championship—mission accomplished. With that I have to bid farewell. It's official, like the referee whistle."

As a Detroit native, the 255-pound Bettis said the game could not have been "scripted" any better, having won and retired in front of the friends and family who in 13 years saw him become the fifth-leading rusher in NFL history with 13,662 yards.

"For all of the people that have been with me the whole time, for them to be able to



Stevie Wonder, India.Arie, John Legend and Joss Stone (l) perform during the Super Bowl pre-game show.

share this with me is amazing. To be able to do it at home is truly, truly a blessing. I think I am the luckiest football player probably ever to play,” said the Hall of Fame-bound running back, who finished the game with 43 yards on 14 carries.

In their hometown, Bettis’ doting parents, Johnnie and Gladys, were nothing short of celebrities, hosting friends and Jerome’s teammates at their home with home-cooked meals in between the interviews they did with dozens of media outlets.

“We’re proud of Jerome, as a player and son,” said Johnnie Bettis, who with his wife has attended all of their youngest child’s games—high school, college and professional, home and away—with the exception of two Steelers’ preseason games outside of the United States. Asked what they are going to do with all the time on their hands now that they won’t be traveling half the year, Mrs. Bettis said,

laughing, “Enjoy time at home, rest, and hopefully I won’t have to get a job.”

Motown Party

Having stood in line for hours in the cold Detroit air, fans were treated to the heated, covered stadium and a stellar pre-game and halftime show.

Grammy Award-winner Stevie Wonder headlined the show that featured collaborations with singers India.Arie, John Legend, Wonder’s daughter Aisha Morris and Joss Stone. Wonder performed Motown favorites *I Heard It Through The Grapevine*, *Uptight (Everything’s Alright)*, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered I’m Yours*, *Superstition* and *Dancing in the Streets* alongside ’70s-esque dancers and a robe-clad choir and finished with his latest song *What The Fuss* as he stood from the piano and danced along.

In Four Tops’ trademark stylish attire (yellow suits, black shirts and yellow shoes), the group performed *I Can’t Help*



◀ **Queen of Soul** Aretha Franklin, a Detroit native, and Aaron Neville sing the national anthem as musician Dr. John plays the piano behind them before the Super Bowl. Neville and Dr. John, both New Orleans natives, and Franklin paid tribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch) and showed off some groovy moves.

The crowd was also moved by the soulful voices of legends Aretha Franklin, a Detroit-native, and Aaron Neville as they joined together to sing their rendition of the national anthem. The Rolling Stones performed as the halftime entertainment.

Super Game

Steelers' fans dominated the streets, parties and the crowd of 68,206 at Ford Field. Among a sea of Terrible Towels and black and gold jerseys, the Steelers seemed to feel right at home in Detroit.

Though the Steelers trailed early, the team's second-half surge put the Seahawks into a hole it couldn't get out of. The game was played and won as a team, everyone sharing a starring role. The staunch defense held Seahawks' running back Shaun Alexander, the NFL Offensive Player of the Year, to 95 yards and the No. 1 scoring team in the league to only one touchdown and a field goal. With only 22 seconds into the second

half, Steelers running back Willie Parker broke a record with his 75-yard touchdown run, the longest run from scrimmage in Super Bowl history.

Then, in the fourth quarter, with 8:56 remaining, Steelers wide receiver Antwaan Randle El threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to receiver Hines Ward on a reverse. The floating pass caught Ward wide open and became the first touchdown pass thrown by a receiver in Super Bowl history.

"I was hoping [the coaches] would call the play, and they called it," said Randle El, a champion in only his 4th season in the NFL. "It's been wonderful—a great game and a great finish. This whole season nobody thought we could, but we did it, and here we are."

Other firsts in Super Bowl XL was a win by the longest-tenured coach (Bill Cowher's 14 years) and the youngest quarterback to win a title (Ben Roethlisberger's 2nd year in the NFL).

Super Bowl MVP

Ward, whose 5 catches, 123 yards and



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-Arthur Dilbert

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▲ Hines Ward showcases the Pete Rozelle Trophy after he was named the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player.



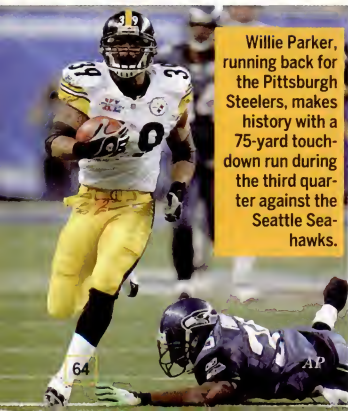
Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward scores a touchdown on a pass during the fourth quarter. The Steelers tied San Francisco and Dallas in winning five Super Bowl championships.

touchdown earned him the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Award and a black Cadillac Escalade, describes himself as a blue-collar guy. "I may not be the flashiest, most flamboyant out there, but I get the job done for my team," Ward said. So, winning the MVP honor was especially emotional for the eight-year veteran who now feels he's reached star status.

"All year, having to prove naysayers wrong, that this guy can't get it done, but here I am playing in the Super Bowl. I never went into the game saying I wanted to be the Super Bowl MVP, I just went out and played," Ward said. "For me to get this honor solidified my career. From where I came from and how I got to this point, it's a special feeling."

Ward also revealed how winning for teammate and close friend Bettis drove the team this season. "Jerome has touched every player in that locker room in some form, some way, some how. For him to come so close, and fall short of the Super Bowl last year, I took it very hard. It's not often you're playing with a Hall of Fame running back or Hall of Fame guy, period. I truly appreciate what he's done for my career. And having him come back, winning the Super Bowl, from where it all started, it's a fairy tale come true for him... because he truly deserved to go out as a champion. You couldn't have written a better ending."

—Melody K. Hoffman



Willie Parker, running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, makes history with a 75-yard touchdown run during the third quarter against the Seattle Seahawks.

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'Something The Lord Made'

Mos Def stars as poor Black lab technician Vivien Thomas, and **Alan Rickman** stars as chief surgeon Dr. Alfred Blalock. The two achieve a monumental medical breakthrough working in 1940s Baltimore on an unprecedented technique for performing heart surgery on "blue babies." Also starring are **Charles Dutton**, **Mary Stuart Masterson**, **Gabrielle Union** and **Krya Sedgwick** on (Monday, February 20 at 9 p.m., ET) on HBO. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Danny Glover/Queen Latifah/Storm P in *The Cookout*, (Thursday, February 16 at 8:30 p.m., ET) on Showtime.

Gary Dourdan on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," (Thursday, February 16 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Sheryl Underwood hosts "Comic View," (Thursday, February 16 at 10 p.m., ET) on BET.

Bernie Mac/Zoë Saldaña/Judith Scott/Kellee Stewart/Ashton Kutcher in *Guess Who*, (Saturday, February 18 at 9 p.m., ET) on Starz.

James Pickens/Isaiah Washington/Chandra Wilson on "Grey's Anatomy," (Sunday, February 19 at 10 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Tracee Ellis Ross/Golden Brooks/Persia White/Jill Marie Jones/Reggie Hayes on "Girlfriends," (Monday, February 20 at 9 p.m., ET) on UPN.

Spike Lee/Theresa Randle/Isaiah Washington/Jenifer Lewis/Naomi Campbell in *Girl 6*, (Tuesday, February 21 at 9:05 p.m., ET) on Cinemax.

Denzel Washington in *Philadelphia*, (Wednesday, February 22 at 8 p.m., ET) on Flix.

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